

November 28, 2006

Honorable State Representative Fulton Sheen,  
House Committee on Governmental Operations

Representative Sheen:

I am writing to ask for your support for HB5470, The Michigan Medical Marijuana Act which is currently before the House Committee on Governmental Operations.

I am a 72 year old man. I have never used marijuana. To my knowledge, my wife has never used marijuana, either. But there is no way to ask her directly to confirm that. My wife, Janice McGee Francisco, suffers from advanced stage Alzheimer's disease and is currently living in a nursing home. She no longer recognizes me or her own children.

No known drug completely stops the progression of Alzheimer's. No known drug can reverse the damage already done. There are several pharmaceuticals currently on the market that have demonstrated the ability to slow the progression of this disease. None of those currently approved drugs has proven to be as effective as the naturally occurring plant, Cannabis sativa, more commonly known as marijuana, in slowing the onset of Alzheimer's symptoms.

This past June a report was released by the Scripts Research Institute, La Jolla, CA that once again confirmed previous studies on the superior efficacy of marijuana in slowing the onset of Alzheimer's. The Scripts study found that no pharmaceutical currently on the market or in the pipeline was as effective as the commonly available raw plant, Cannabis sativa. This study was published in the August, 2006 Journal of Molecular Pharmaceutics and may be found at:

<http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/sample.cgi/mpohbp/asap/html/mp060066m.html>

Representative Sheen, it is too late to help my wife. I implore you however to do the compassionate thing and help spare other families the anguish my family has suffered. If marijuana had been available to my wife it is quite possible that we could have enjoyed another year or two together. I would have gladly helped her brew marijuana tea or baked marijuana into cookies if it would have allowed us more time together. Instead, this Thanksgiving there was an empty place at our table.

Please support healthy, intact families. Please support HB5470.

Respectfully,

  
Ronald Francisco

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Cc: Michigan House Committee on Governmental Operations